THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY:

OR,

A Diſcourſe of the *Cauſes* of the *Decay of Trade*, *Fall of Lands*, and *Want of Money* throughout the Nation; with certain *Expedients* for remedying the ſame, and bringing this Kingdom to an eminent degree of Riches and Proſperity:

BY

Saving many Hundred Thouſand Pounds yearly, Raiſing a full Trade, and conſtant Imployment for all ſorts of People, and increaſing His MAJESTIES *Revenue*, by a Method no way burthenſome, but advantagious to the Subject.

By R. Haines

The Rich mans wealth is his ſtrong City, the deſtruction of the Poor is their poverty. Prov. 10. 15.

LONDON,
Printed for *Nathaniel Brooke*, at the ſign of the Angel in *Cornhill* near the *Royal-Exchange*, M. DC. LXXIV.

HF1534
1674

TO THE MOST

ILLUSTRIOUS PRINCE,

RUPERT,

DUKE OF *CUMBERLAND*,

EARLE OF *HOLDERNESSE*, *and* KNIGHT *of the Most* NOBLE ORDER *of the GARTER*, *and one of His* MAJESTIES MOST *HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL*, *&c.*

May it please Your HIGHNESS,

THE Consideration of my own Unworthiness, and obscure Condition, would easily check my Thoughts from the Presumption of troubling your Illustrious Eye with these mean

mean Lines, did not Your Princely Clemency and the nature of the thing make ſuch Addreſs in ſome reſpect neceſſary.

For ſince 'tis Eminently known, that Your *Highneſs* hath, not onely by moſt excellent Conduct, and perſonal Hazards in War, given Matchleſs Proofs of Your great zeal for the Safety and Glory of the *Engliſh* Nation; but alſo by the prudence of Your Counſels endeavoured ever to promote its Welfare, by *diſcovering* and *cheriſhing* uſeful Arts, and profitable Inventions, and *incouraging* all things that tend to its Honour, Wealth, and Proſperity, though tendred by the loweſt and never ſo deſpicable Inſtruments: for which publick-ſpirited Generoſity Your *Highneſs* juſtly merits much more Honour and Applauſe, than my weak Capacity is able to expreſs.

Whether then ſhould theſe unpoliſh'd

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Papers (wherein I have with more Affection than Encouragement) endeavoured to propoſe ſome Expedients tending to this Kingdoms future happineſs, fly for ſhelter in this *ſlothful envious* Age (wherein many that will never ſtudy any thing for general Good themſelves, are too ready to *cruſh*, *abuſe*, and *miſrepreſent* thoſe that do) but to Your *Highneſſes* Protection, who are Ennobled with the cleareſt Judgment to Cenſure, and the moſt obliging Candor to pardon them.

At Your *Highneſs's* feet I therefore caſt them with all humble ſubmiſſion, and if in any part they ſhall obtain the Honour of your Princely Approbation, and be thought fit to be Encouraged in the leaſt, as conducing to general Good, I ſhall not afterwards fear the Cenſures of *Envy*, but ſit down ſecure in the Conſcience of having endeavour'd to be

ſer-

viceable (to my weak power) to my Countrey, and the happineſs I have hereby to declare my ſelf

YOUR HIGHNESS's

Moſt Humble and moſt Obedient

Servant

RICHARD HAINES.

The prevention of Poverty:

OR,

A Diſcourſe of the Cauſes of the Decay of Trade, Fall of Lands, and Want of Money throughout the Nation, with certain Expedients for remedying the ſame.

SO general and loud, for diverſe years paſt, have been the complaints, for want of Trade and Money throughout this Nation; and ſo preſſing are the Neceſſities of moſt men, that there is ſcarce any perſon can be inſenſible of it: And this is not only in time of War, (though then more eſpecially,) but alſo in time of *Peace*, when the Seas were open, and we might promiſe our ſelves the largeſt ſhare of Proſperity. Whence 'tis evident, that the Cauſes are not wholly Outward or Accidental, but rather Internal, and as it were in our own Bowels, which conſume us, and have reduced us to ſuch a low Ebb, that a general Poverty ſeems to have invaded the whole Nation, *Leaſes being continually thrown up in the Countrey, and Tradeſmen daily Breaking in the City.* In brief, all conditions of men ſeem to have chang'd their ſtations, and ſunk below themſelves; the Gentry, by reaſon of the *fall of their Lands*, and *uncertainty of Rents*, being brought to live at the rate of a Yeoman; the Yeoman can ſcarce maintain himſelf ſo well as an ordinary Farmer heretofore; the Farmer is forced to live as hard as a poor Labourer anciently; and Labourers generally, if they have Families, are ready to run a begging, the Poverty of moſt Pariſhes being ſuch, that they can hardly ſupply or relieve them.

The consideration whereof, and that no man is born for himself, but ought to do what in him lies to promote the publick Good, and general Welfare of his Countrey, has invited me (though uncapable, and not sufficiently qualified to do any considerable Service, yet however) to testifie my well-wishes, and throw in my mite into the publick Treasury, by endeavouring some Expedients for raising the Trade of the Nation, and advancing the temporal prosperity of all its Inhabitants.

In order whereunto I first applied my self to find out the Causes of such National *Poverty*, which like an *armed* Enemy hath threatned to *invade* the whole Kingdom.

Secondly, to discover a Remedy, if possible, that might not only subdue this potent Adversary, but also introduce and maintain a constant stock of Trade and plenty of Money, and so consequently Riches and Honour both to King and Kingdom, and Prosperity to all Estates whatsoever.

I do humbly conceive, that the General Causes of Poverty (unless it be *purposed* by the Lord by reason of *Iniquity*) are

First the daily *Decrease* of Goods and Commodities of our own Growth fit for Exportation.

Secondly, the *double Increase* of *Forreign* costly Goods and Commodities, brought over *more* and *more* from beyond the Seas, *viz.* Iron, Timber, Brandy, French-wines, Linnen-Cloth, and other *French* Commodities: and also Mum, Coffee, Chocolet, Salt, & Salt-petre, with many more. All which Expensive Commodities have been brought into General Use, and Imported in this Nation, within the space of Forty years last past, or little more, (Linnen-Cloth and Wine only excepted.)

The value of these Commodities Imported cannot but amount to a vast Summe, we may modestly (though at rovers) guess it Twenty or Thirty Hundred Thousand Pounds

every

every year; which mighty Sums of Money, thirty or forty years ago, were for the greateſt part kept at home.

Now eaſily obſervable it is, that ever ſince ſuch *prodigious Increaſe* of new Imported Goods, our own moſt great and richeſt Manufactories have *decreaſed*, and the Manufactors become *impoveriſhed*, eſpecially in thoſe of Woollen Cloth and Iron; and foraſmuch as no Commodities *anſwerable* have been raiſed in their ſtead, equally to ballance what we have therein loſt of our own Growth and Production.

It remains then, that of *neceſſity* thoſe *vaſt Sums of Money* aforeſaid, muſt every year go out of the Nation to make the Ballance of Trade even, and this for the greateſt part in ready Coin, as may, I conceive evidently be demonſtrated. Thus, if Money were not tranſported, then our own Manufactories, which are much diminiſhed, and become far leſs than what they were thirty or forty years ago, would now find quick Markets, and yeild good Prizes, to the great incouragement of the Manufactors; but the *contrary is notorious*: wherefore I conclude, that according to the preſent courſe, Money every year muſt *unavoidably* decreaſe amongſt us, to the great impoveriſhing of the whole Nation.

Obj. If it be alledged, that I miſtake the Cauſe of this National Conſumption, and that the great Taxes and many Impoſitions laid upon the Nation, obliging us to part with ſo much Money for his Majeſties uſes, ought to be aſſigned as the grand Cauſe of this great ſcarcity of Money.

Sol. I humbly Anſwer, that this cannot be the Cauſe, for this Reaſon; becauſe what Moneys are given by the Repreſentatives of the Nation to his Majeſty, are but like the Moiſtures drawn up by the Beams of the Sun from the Earth, which ſoon return down again in ſhowers to refreſh the Ground, or like the Blood in its Circulation; for what is carried out of the Countrey goes but into the City, and is there expended again; and foraſmuch as it *goes not beyond*

the Seas, ſoon returns again. So that in the *Nation there is not one Groat the leſs* to be beſtowed on what the Farmer, or any others have to ſpare: wherefore, and for that the Publick Coffers do not hoard or keep up any extraordinary Sums, I humbly hope I may conclude, That this is not the *proper* Cauſe, why the Nation is ſo empty of Money, and that general want of this neceſſary thing (which beneath Grace, and Glory, and what is conducing thereunto) is moſt to be deſired.

But doubtleſs it is the many *Hundred thouſand Pounds*, which our *bad Husbandry* and *ill Conduct* ſends every year *beyond the Seas*, which we ſee again no more; this is the *grand Cauſe* of our *Miſeries*, waſting thus our nobleſt ſpirits, that hath brought the Body Politick into this pining Conſumption, and makes us ſo loudly complain of bad Trade and empty Pockets, and that the Nation is become thus indigent and diſcontented. But alas! what advantage is it only to complain? Diſeaſes are not cured with Out-cries, but rather increaſed; let us then wipe our Eyes, and make uſe of our Heads and our Hands to get out of this quagmire of Neceſſity, wherein we are unhappily plunged.

Too true it is, that we are very poor, and, as I conceive, 'tis no leſs plain, that the reaſon of it is the *neceſſity* of parting every year with vaſt Sums of Money, to make the Ballance of Trade even, becauſe we Import much more than we Export, and therefore I humbly apprehend the beſt means to prevent this *growing Evil*, muſt be

Firſt, to raiſe new Manufactures, whereby to improve what doth or may ariſe of our own *Engliſh* Growth: by which means our Lands may ſome *other* way be imployed, beſides that of Corn and Cattle.

And ſecondly, to ſhut the door of Importation againſt thoſe new imported Goods, *eſpecially* ſuch as are ſuperfluous and injurious to the *well-being* of the Kingdom.

Thus

Thus the firſt Manufacture to be prohibited that may be made of our own Growth, and moſt advantageous to the general Good and Profit of perſons of all Eſtates, is *Linnen Cloth:* for it is moſt certain, that our *Engliſh* Ground will produce Hemp and Flax in ſuch abundance, as may make Linnen-Cloth ſufficient for all occaſions; whence ſeverall great Conveniences, of much advantage to the Publick, will ariſe. As

Firſt, it will improve the Lands, which are proper for Hemp and Flax, to that degree, that what before was worth but twenty ſhillings *per* Acre for Corn or Paſture, by this means will be worth forty or fifty ſhillings the Acre *per annum.*

Secondly, great numbers of poor Families, who have little to do from the beginning of the Year to the end thereof, unleſs ſome few of them in the Countrey, in time of Harveſt, might hereby moſt profitably be ſet to work conſtantly, by raiſing a continual ſtock of Imployment, not only for Men, but alſo Women, Boyes, & Girles, that can do little thing beſides it; whereas for want thereof moſt of them now are trained up in Idleneſs, and live by the labours of others, whoſe number by computation, after the rate of threeſcore in each Pariſh throughout the Kingdom, doth amount unto five Hundred and Eighty Thouſand people, and upwards.

Thirdly, by this means every Pariſh, which by reaſon of Poverty is not able to ſet up a Manufactory for the imployment of their Poor, in making of Wollen Cloth, according to the Statute in that caſe made and provided, may eaſily provide Imployment for them in making of Linnen, whereby many thouſands that now wholly rely on the Pariſh wherein they live for maintenance, might very well ſupport themſelves.

Fourthly, ſome thouſands of wandring perſons that go from door to door, to the great diſhonour & diſadvantage of

the Nation, might by this means become Inſtruments for the enriching of the ſame. And though there be very wholſom Laws in being for preventing this intolerable Inconvenience of Vagrants, yet Officers are generally too remiſs, and to avoid trouble, or the imputation of being over-buſie, and the ill effects thereon depending, ſeldom put the ſame in execution. For this to my knowledge is true, that ſeveral Officers, who willingly would do their Office, and put the Laws in Execution, have told me, that the number of them were ſo great, and dangerous, that they were afraid that their Houſes and Barns might be ſet on fire, whilſt themſelves were aſleep, or that ſome perſonal miſchief ſhould be done them. And indeed no ſmall cauſe there is for theſe Jealouſies, their confidence is ſo very great: for no longer ago than the laſt Aſſizes, holden for the County of *Suſſex*, ſo impudent they were, as to appear in the very face of the Court, inſomuch as to ſtand in the ſight of the Lord *Twiſden*, one of his Majeſties Juſtices of *Niſi prius* for that Circuit, whilſt he was giving his Charge; and although upon this occaſion his Lordſhip ſufficiently and loudly preſt for the putting the Laws in execution with ſeverity againſt them, yet notwithſtanding the Town was ſtill haunted by numbers of them, all the time the Aſſizes laſted. For remedy whereof, it might poſſibly be convenient to propoſe a ſufficient encouraging Reward to be paid every ſuch poor perſon or perſons, that ſhall ſeize any ſuch Vagrants, by the Overſeers of the poor of that Pariſh where they are taken, and that a ſevere Penalty be impoſed on Conſtables, and other Officers neglecting their duties, when any perſons ſo apprehended are brought to them; by which means thoſe many thouſands, which are idle, may be imployed to their own good, and the Nations advantage, ſo that in ſix Months time, there might not be a Beggar in the Kingdom, if ſuch Encouragement were given.

Laſtly

Laſtly, beſides all theſe Advantages, ſeveral hundred thouſand Pounds, which are now expended and ſent out of the Nation for *Linnen*, might hereby be kept at Home, or better Improved, to the great advantage of His Majeſties Subjects. Beſides, a farther advantage by this planting of Hemp, *&c.* will accrue towards making of Sails, Cables, and other Cordage neceſſary for Shipping, of which ſufficient may be made at home, without being beholden to our Neighbours for a Commodity ſo important for Navigation, parting with our Money to Strangers for it, as we uſually do to a very great yearly value.

Obj. If any alledge, that this planting of Hemp and Flax, imploying a great part of the beſt Lands, will create an Inconvenience, by cauſing both Corn and Cattel to be leſs plenty.

Anſ. I anſwer, that I apprehend no grounds for ſuch fear. For as for Corn, great quantities of rich Lands being broken up to be planted with Flax, may after Flax be moſt properly ſown with Corn, and that to great advantage; ſo that on the contrary, Corn will be hereby the more plenty. Then as for the decreaſe of Cattle, it is eaſily cured; for Land, kind for Corn, when by long ſowing 'tis impoveriſhed, ſo that 'twill bear Corn no longer, may be ſown with Trefoil, or Clover, and then one Acre ſhall produce as much Hay or paſture as two or three Acres did before; and as ſoon as that is decayed, the Land will bear Corn more kindly than before (provided it be plowed up before the Couch-graſs gets in it;) for Clover and Trefoil, I know by Experience, prepares the Ground for Wheat, as much as a good Crop of Tares or *French*-wheat, otherwiſe called *Buck-wheat*, can do. Beſides, if Cattel ſhould fail, the remedy is eaſie and cheap; for when the King and Parliament pleaſe, *Ireland* is ready, and will be glad to ſupply us ſpeedily.

A ſecond thing to be prohibited coming over, is the

growing

growing-trade of that *outlandish*, *robbing*, and (by reason of its abuse) *Mankilling-Liquor*, called BRANDY, which will promote the Consumption of our own Commodities, as Beer, and Ale; or if such a Liquor be thought necessary for Seamen, or the like, then to raise some Commodity of the like nature and strength at home: for (as I am credibly informed by persons well experienced that way) as good and as strong Liquor may be made with what doth abound at home. Which if so, the Profit will not be inconsiderable, since Three hundred thousand Pounds, that Brandy now costs us every year, will be kept at home.

A Third thing to be prohibited, may be *Bay-Salt* from beyond the Seas: for it is well known, that Salt for all occasions, and as good for all intents and purposes, may be made at home; and that not only to the great Improvement of much Land on the Sea-Coast, which now lyeth waste, and is of no profit either to King or Subject; but will also preserve in the Nation Fifty thousand Pounds *per annum*, to the great enriching of the Kingdom, and may be done with very much ease, and as little difficulty.

A Fourth Commodity to be prohibited may be *Salt-petre*, of which we might make and raise in our Nation sufficient for all occasions.

A Fifth Improvement, which I conceive may be made, is in *Iron*, which most certainly might, as well now as heretofore, be raised at home, the benefit whereof would be very great; because some Hundred thousand Pounds might hereby every year be saved, or otherwise improved, (and many Thousands of His Majesties Subjects imployed) which now is expended in that Commodity.

Obj. But if it should be supposed, that such Iron-works would too much consume our Woods, I must so far beg leave to think otherwise; that I conceive, and many well skill'd in those works, are of opinion, That the neglect of

Iron-

Iron-work has been a main Cauſe, that our Woods are ſo much decayed, and ſo many Coppices grubb'd up, and converted into Tillage. For when Iron-works were carried on, both Wood and Coals would yeild ready Moneys, which incouraged the Owners not only to preſerve the Coppices and Woods from deſtruction, but alſo to plant and promote more; whereas now without doubt in a few years, our Oak-Timber (deſervedly accounted the beſt in the world, and a great ſtrength and ornament to the Kingdom) will be ſo far deſtroyed, that little will be to be had; and the reaſon is, becauſe the *only Nurſe* that maketh the Oak, and other Timber to flouriſh, is *Under-woods*, and where *Under-woods are not*, there cannot (or very rarely is) any good Timber; ſo that although great quantities of Wood may be conſumed by Iron-works, yet Woods becoming thereby more carefully preſerved, they grow again, and conſequently there is no leſs plenty, but for want of Iron-works they are deſtroyed, both Wood and Timber, Root and Branch, and that more and more every year.

And this the rather, and more to the deſtruction of Timber, becauſe people in diverſe Countries have got a miſchievous Trick, to elude and avoid that wholſom Statute, whereby it is Enacted, That on every Fall of Under-woods they ſhould leave ſo many Standels, Tellows, or young Trees to grow for Timber; which indeed they will do, but then at the next Fall of the ſame Wood, *viz.* about nine or ten years after, they will cut thoſe very Standels or Tellows left before, (ſo that they never become Timber) and then they leave new ones, and this ſucceſſively, whereby the Intention of the Statute is unworthily defeated.

Obj. But if it be objected, that Iron ſufficient for the whole Nation cannot be made, except much Land be turned from Arable and Paſture to Woods, which will cauſe Depopulation and Dearth.

Sol. I Anſwer, that there are Woods ſufficient in the Nation already growing to compaſs the work, without planting any more, (provided they were improved, and not needleſly conſumed otherwiſe, as they are now in too many places.) Beſides, it would encourage the planting of Woods in places, which are now otherwiſe of little or no uſe. And doubtleſs it might be convenient and advantageous for the whole Kingdom, if all the Inhabitants, who live within ſome few Miles of the Sea and navigable Rivers, were prohibited burning of Wood for any general uſe, as Kitching-Service, brewing of Beer, or the like, whereby many hundred thouſand Loads of Wood would be ſpared every Year, and that to the great advantage of the Nation for the uſe aforeſaid. Nor will ſuch Inhabitants have any juſt cauſe to complain, ſince they might be ſupplied with Sea-Coal upon cheaper terms, and thoſe veſſels which bring Sea-Coal, may in many places carry away their Charcoal to places of uſe for ſuch Iron-works, and ſo Boats, Ships, and Seamen, will be increaſed and imployed, to the great advantage and ſafety of the Kingdom, and the Nation will abound with this neceſſary Commodity of Iron, which now coſts us at leaſt five hundred thouſand Pounds *per annum*; whereas otherwiſe for want of Iron and Timber, we ſhall in ſhort time be reduced to ſuch a kind of
Sam. 13. 20. condition, as the children of *Iſrael*, truckling under *Philiſtin* ſlavery, were in; they were forced to go into another Nation, to ſharpen every man his Share, his Coulter, and his Axe, only with this difference, They had Iron but no Smiths, by reaſon of the oppreſſion of an Enemy, we have Smiths and Carpenters enough, yet ſhall have no Iron, and but little Timber, by reaſon of our own fatal ill Husbandry; ſo that for want of Iron and Timber, our Shipping will be dearer continually, and we beholding to others for materials, a thing of very pernicious conſequence. I well remember,

I have ſomewhere read in Hiſtory, that *Edgar* King of *England* did take greater delight in his Shipping, than any Recreation whatſoever. And no ſmall reaſon had he ſo to do, conſidering of what ſtrength, wealth, and ſafety the ſame is to any Nation, much more to an Iſland as ours is; and therefore once every year he would ſail round his Kingdom with a Navy of ſtout Ships, conſiſting of four thouſand Sail, which (ſaith the Hiſtorian) we find upon Record.

Obj. But I ſuppoſe here may ariſe an Objection againſt the Trade of Iron and Linnen Cloth both together, *viz.* both theſe Commodities may be bought cheaper from abroad, than we can make them at home; and doubtleſs 'tis the beſt Husbandry to buy all Commodities where they may be had moſt cheap.

Anſ. To which I humbly Anſwer, That although the Inhabitants of this Nation may have thoſe Commodities from beyond the Seas cheaper at preſent, than yet they can be bought being made at home; yet I conceive if we would induſtriouſly ſet upon it, it might in ſhort time be otherwiſe. And beſides it is much better Husbandry to give Twenty pounds for that of our own Growth, than but Fifteen for what comes from beyond the Seas; becauſe in the laſt caſe our Money is quite gone, and will return no more; in the firſt it ſtill remains, within the Nation, and will come again, and beſides imploys Thouſands of his Majeſties Subjects, that otherwiſe be chargeable and burthenſome. And as by one Trade Money decreaſeth, ſo by the other Money will increaſe, when our Commodities are for Treaſure exported; and eaſier it is to part with twenty Pounds, when Money is plenty, than with Fifteen when money is ſcarce, as at preſent.

Obj. But if it be farther objected, that I am all this while miſtaken, for that it is not Money, but Goods, that pays for all theſe Commodities, by means whereof we have the bet-

ter Trade for what we have to ſpare; but if this Trade be loſt, then our own Goods which we have to ſpare, will be of little worth, and ſo our Caſe becomes much worſe than now it is.

Anſ. Whereunto I humbly Anſwer, that I ſtill conceive otherwiſe, and that the Objection is under a miſtake; for what the Nation hath *now to ſpare*, and fit for Exportation, is *much leſs* than was forty or fifty years ago, as aforeſaid; and yet then, when *none* of theſe things, with many more, did come into the Kingdom, there was a *better Trade* by far than what is now; for Commodities then went for Commodities of greater worth, without parting with *any Moneys*, and in thoſe days our Commodities went farther from home, and inſtead of Brandy, Iron, and the like, produced far better returns: ſo that then, both Silver and Gold, not originally produced in *England*, was very *plenty*, but now our Moneys and Commodities are *carried forth*, and in concluſion turn to little or no account.

And unleſs our Commodities for Exportation did *increaſe* anſwerable to the *Increaſe* of Commodities Imported, *As it is moſt certainly true that they do not, then of neceſſity out goes* MONEY, *and in comes* POVERTY; *the truth whereof doth appear by ſad Experience. For all that our Goods and Money bring in is ſoon conſumed, and comes as it were to the Dunghill, whilſt our Wealth becomes a prey to other Nations.* Whereas if the door of Importation for thoſe unneceſſary and *injurious* Commodities were ſhut, Money would be prevented from going out, and people unavoidably would apply themſelves to the making them at home, whereby there would be a *far better and quick Trade*, and all people would have *ſufficient Imployment* to gain a comfortable *Livelihood*, and the ſaid Commodities in a little time become as good and as cheap of our own Manufacture, as now we have them from beyond the Seas, and the Importation of *Bullion* no way hindred,

hindred, but greatly promoted hereby, and the Exportation thereof prevented, and conſequently Money much more plenty than ever it was.

To theſe ſeveral Commodities, which I humbly conceive fit to be prohibited to be Imported, might be added Commodities which neceſſarily ſhould on greater Penalties be forbidden to be exported, and ſome better means uſed for that end than what hath yet been appointed. Such are *Fullers Earth* and *Wool*, the one of excellent uſe, the other being a very plentiful Commodity of this Kingdom, which to be converted into Cloth would imploy great numbers of our people, and bring in much wealth to the Nation; but by reaſon of the Exportation thereof privately from hence, or growth of Wool in other Nations, thoſe vaſt Advantages formerly ariſing hereby, are now greatly diminiſhed, others furniſhing thoſe Markets where formerly our Commodities found quick Trade and good Prizes. And ſince 'tis well known, that Woollen Cloth cannot be made without *Fullers Earth*, and that *Fullers Earth* is no where to be had but in our Nation; Then to prevent *Fullers Earth* from going beyond the Seas, muſt *infallibly revive* the former flouriſhing Trade of Woollen Cloth, without which many Nations cannot ſubſiſt, and by which we may become very rich; which if ſo, what care ought not to be taken, to ſecure this one thing, ſo uſeful, that Silver Oar by way of Exchange is not to be accepted for it.

We might likewiſe add the conveniency, though not of a total Prohibition, yet of ſome Reſtraint of the extraordinary Importation of *French Wines*, for the incouragement of the Manufactories of this Kingdom, which abounds with Excellent Liquors, as Beer, Ale, *&c.* the conſumption of which ought to be promoted, and forreign Drinks diſcouraged. Beſides, the want of French Wines might be eaſily ſupplied (in ſome meaſure by Wines made at home, for ſome

Gentlemen

Gentlemen have experienced it with very good ſucceſs, or however) by excellent Ciders, which being produced in our own Climate, may be more agreeable and wholſome for our bodies than thoſe forreign Liquors, eſpecially when adulterated. But I dare not launch out too far into this Ocean, for me thinks I ſee a *powerful* Objection ariſing, that like a Tempeſt ſeems to threaten no leſs than the *Blaſting* of all our Projects, *viz.*

Obj. If Linnen-Cloth, Iron, Brandy, Salt, *&c.* ſhall be wholly prohibited from being Imported, His Majeſties Revenue ariſing out of the Cuſtoms will be much impaired and diminiſhed.

Anſ. To which moſt Important Objection I humbly Anſwer, That having by the Expedients before mentioned ſetled a conſtant and ſure method of Trading, Commodities for Commodities, His Majeſties Revenue may for the future ſtand upon a firmer *Baſis*, and our own Commodities fit for Exportation being hereby increaſed, will doubtleſs bring home greater Returns than formerly in other Commodities, and thoſe of a richer nature, and ſuch as our Induſtry at home cannot ſupply us with. For inſtead of things before mentioned to be prohibited from being Imported, out of which Cuſtoms now ariſe, we may have *Spices*, and other *Indian* Commodities brought in, and afterwards again exported from hence to other Nations; as is practiſed in *Holland*, which thereby is become the common Spicery for the Northern Nations, and moſt part of *Europe*, which way of Trade may, as 'tis conceived, ſupply His Majeſties Cuſtoms, ſo as in *ſome meaſure* to ballance the loſs in the Cuſtoms of Brandy, Linnen, Iron, *&c.* eſpecially if that Ancient ſtaple Trade of this Nation, the Making and Exporting of Woollen Cloth, were but incouraged and promoted as in former Ages, and *Fullers Earth* ſecured, as poſſibly it may.

Secondly, That ſince ſuch prohibition tends to the great Ad-

Advantage of the whole Nation, and that His Majesty in kindness to his People shall part with such part of His Revenue, His Subjects will be obliged not only in Duty but Gratitude to supply His Majesty; and the wisdom of their Representatives may find out some other way by Taxes, Impositions, or the like, to compensate such His Majesties loss, which now may with *great advantage, and more easily and cheerfully be born and paid, seeing all people by this means only*, may enjoy a *quick Trade*, and *plenty of Money*, nor may it be given upon a better consideration.

Furthermore, if it were not too much a presumption, I would willingly (though still with all humble submission to those in Authority, in whose power alone it lies to make the Alteration) propose a way and means more advantagious, which in my Apprehension, *if it may be approv'd of by better Judgments*, may serve considerably towards His Majesties supply, and also be a means to raise and preserve plenty of Money, and also tend much to the wealth and prosperity of the whole Nation, which is thus. If all His Majesties Coin were called into the Tower, and Three-pence taken out of every Twelve-pence, and then new coined for a Shilling, then might His Majesty have five Shillings out of every Pound: and so suppose that in the whole Nation there be Eightscore hundred Thousand Pounds, a fourth part being taken out of it, will amount to forty hundred thousand Pounds, or four Millions of Money for His Majesties use, charges of Coinage only deducted. And for as much as 9^d in Weight is made 12^d in Value, no Subject may complain that he is hereby a Penny the worse.

But if Threepence be thought too much, instead thereof suppose it but Three-Halfpence, there will arise for His Majesties use thereby, two Millions of Money, Coinage deducted as aforesaid.

What Inconveniences may hereby arise I confess I cannot

foreſee, but to me it ſeems that theſe Conveniences and Advantages will not fail to be the conſequents of it.

1. It will enrich the whole Nation, ſince there will be neer a fourth part as much Money more than was before.

2. After all Money's new Coin'd, it will invite perſons, who have ſtocks of Plate, to melt it down, and have it put into Coin.

3. As it *increaſes* Money, ſo it will *ſecure* it from going *beyond the Seas*; for by its being made more in value, and leſs in weight, all Nations will ceaſe to rob us of it, as in ſome meaſure they have done of our *Guinny* Gold, which by reaſon of its being lighter than others keeps at home the better.

4. Whereas before, His Majeſties Coin, being more in weight and leſs in value than that of His Neighbours, the *profit thereby* to be made, gave great incouragement to them to covet our Money, and *refuſe* to take our Goods for their Commodities, thoſe very ill effects will now ceaſe.

5. By this means thoſe very Merchants, who carried away Money from us, will now rather bring Money to us; becauſe that as before it was for their advantage to carry our Money, being heavieſt and leaſt in value, ſo now on the contrary it may be their advantage to bring their Money, being now the heavieſt, to us, where it may ſuffer the ſame Improvement.

6. As by this means only, Money will *increaſe and continue*, ſo all Commodities that we have to ſpare, and fit for Tranſportation, will *unavoidably find quick and good Markets, ſo as to incourage all people cheerfully to manage their Affairs*.

7. By means of this variation of Coin, a conſiderable advance will ariſe to His Majeſties Revenue; for if *Bullion* be brought into the Tower at the Rates as heretofore, then ſo much as Money is made leſs than formerly, ſo much profit and advantage will ariſe to the Crown.

And

And now behold how *happily* would the Tide be turn'd, ſeeing our Moneys will hereby be *ſecured* within our own Borders? What abundance of Goods and Commodities now muſt the *French* take of us for their Wines, which before were paid for with ready Money, and the like in many other caſes. So that whereas at preſent our Moneys go out to enrich others, and poverty like a deſtroying Torrent comes in upon us, now of neceſſity (our Coin being kept at home) *out* go all our ſuperfluous Goods and Commodities which we have to ſpare, and conſequently *in* comes a quick Trade, Wealth and Proſperity, like a *refreſhing ſtream*, ſpreading it ſelf all over the Nation, adding *life*, *courage*, and *cheerfulneſs* to its *weary* and greatly *diſcouraged* Inhabitants, who as yet lye *groaning* under the *grievous* Tyranny of that *Intolerable Oppreſſor*, every where known by the name of *Poverty*, whoſe power is now increaſing, and ſtoutly guarded and ſupported by that *only growing* Trade, *viz.* Beggars, and Vagrants, together with the *daily increaſe* of diſtreſſed people in each Pariſh; but by the means aforeſaid how ſuddenly might his Guards be forced, *himſelf totally vanquiſh'd*, and *Proſperity*, *Wealth*, *and Honour flouriſhing in his ſtead.*

Obj. But ſay ſome, the *French* are ſo Deviliſh wiſe, and politick, that they will keep their Wines from us, rather than part with them on that conſideration. They will not be pleaſed with toyes and fancies as we are with theirs; they *muſt* drink *Water* and *no Beer*, *wear wooden Shooes rather than Leathern ones*, *and Leathern Jackets not Cloth*, rather than afford us their Wines to us to pleaſe and make us merry, *unleſs it be for our ready Money*, and conſequently we ſhall have no Wines at all for Phyſical uſe and neceſſary occaſions.

Anſ. To which I anſwer, that if this be true, I am very ſorry for it; for I fancy *French* Wines are good to cauſe Appetite, and help Digeſtion: but ſince Experience tells us, that *Cider will do the ſame thing*, and alſo that a Glaſs

of *Sack* is more Cordial and cheerful, and both may be had upon terms *much more advantagious to the Nation*, it would doubtleſs be as *great Wiſdom* for us to deal with them as they with us, (that is) to have no more Wines *&c.* of them, than they have Goods of us to pay for them. And if they ſhall indeed keep their Wines *&c.* from us, the *worſt* I conceive of it is only this, that we ſhall thereby *ſave* at leaſt Ten hundred thouſand pounds (or one Million) of Money yearly, and yet have ſufficient for more than neceſſary uſe; for it is reaſonably ſuppoſed, and alſo affirmed, that the value of *French* Wines which are ſpent in this Nation amounts to no leſs than Twenty hundred thouſand pounds *per annum.*

Obj. But if notwithſtanding all theſe *Conveniences*, (and the Exemplary practice of moſt neighbour Princes and States, who uſually raiſe their Coin when themſelves want it, and abate it again as they find greater plenty, and leſs occaſions,) it ſhall ſtill be objected, That making Money leſs than what it ought to be by our preſent ſtandard, will be diſhonourable to the Kingdom.

Anſw. I would *humbly* intreat that it may be conſidered, whether that National Policy, when it compaſſeth *wealth* and *power*, be not more *honourable* than that which in it ſelf may be *brave*, and only eſteemed *honourable*, but proves indeed according to our preſent condition *injurious to the Nations wealth and proſperity in general?* And whereas it is alledged as an Honour, that the Coin of *England* is heavier than any in the world; would it not be a far greater *diſhonour*, if it ſhould be truly reported to be the *pooreſt Kingdom of Europe*, as by the conſequence it ſeems to be threatned? But now by this means His Majeſties Coin will continue in this Kingdom, to the great advantage of after-Generations. For ſuppoſing one of His Majeſties late Predeceſſors had done ſuch a thing in their times, would it not have prevented

ted the preſent ſcarcity of Money? For although One of their Half Crowns had been worn as thin as a Shilling, and a Shilling as thin as a Sixpence, yet would it have paſſed as well as doth an Old Groat, which hath not ſo much Silver in it as a Two-pence, and yet continues Currant and paſſable.

Obj. If it be objected, that by reaſon of this raiſing the value of our Coin, both our People at home, and Strangers trading hither, will raiſe all commodities proportionably.

Anſ. I humbly Anſwer, that MONEY is *principally* intended for the Conveniency of Traffique between perſons of the *ſame Nation* onely, and to them it is all one, ſince the ſame is made *Currant* by *Authority*, and the ſmall Piece to purchaſe as *much* as when it was greater: and as for *Strangers*, when they bring Commodities, though we ſometimes pay them with Money *in ſpecie*, yet it is not intended they ſhould carry it away, but beſtow it here on Commodities, which they may buy with the ſame at the Rates *accuſtomed*, notwithſtanding this Variation of our Money, and ſo be no Loſers at all thereby, but onely in reſpect of the opportunities they have heretofore had of defrauding us, by carrying away our Money *in ſpecie* to their advantage, and our vaſt detriment as aforeſaid.

Obj. If it ſhall be farther objected, That there is a Neceſſity for the *Eaſt-India* Company to export Gold and Silver in their courſe of Trade;

Anſ. I humbly Anſwer, by referring it to the conſideration of Authority, whether there be (at leaſt when our own Manufactures are incouraged and increaſed by the means aforeſaid) any ſuch neceſſity at all. But if there ſhall, then its humbly propoſed that ſuch Gold and Silver may be Exported thither in Ingots, or the Maſs fitted for that purpoſe, and not in Coin, as hath been of late accuſtomed, which renders ready money ſcarce amongſt us.

But if after all this, there ſhould as many Inconveniences be found attending this *Means* as there are Advantages ariſing by it, which I think improbable, or that I ſhould be miſtaken in all or any the Propoſals before diſcourſed; yet ſhould I hope that my labour herein may not be wholly loſt: for ſince, as the Lord *Bacon* ſomewhere ſays, *it deſerves Commendations to make even Wiſhes that are not abſurd*, I truſt my Endeavours may obtain a Pardon, though in all points it's poſſible they may not anſwer Expectation, being undertaken upon no other motive than an *unfeigned deſire* to *ſerve* His Majeſty, and the Nation wherein I live, and to *promote* the Honour and Proſperity of them both; and without repining or envying at the glory of more happy diſcoveries, ſhall reſt ſatisfied, although this ſmall Eſſay of mine prove but like a Whetſtone, (which ſharpens other things, though blunt and dull it ſelf) ſtirring up the Induſtry of abler Wits, and better Experienc'd Heads, to find out more plauſible, profitable, and feaſible Expedients.

However, for a Concluſion of this brief Diſcourſe, give me leave to add a few words to take off the edge of one Objection that may yet poſſibly be levied, alledging,

Obj. That Corn and Cattel are now got to a good price, by means of which we in the Country hope to pay our Landlord's Rent, and alſo be enabled to provide well for our Families; ſo that neither Landlord nor Tenant may complain, and conſequently we ſhould do well enough without any of theſe Projects.

Anſ. To which I Anſwer, That what is now by this means gotten, is little better than pinched out of the bellies of the Poor; ſo that as the Landlords and Land-occupiers Proſperity increaſeth, in like manner the Poverty and Miſery of the Poor increaſeth; and like the Scales of a Ballance, look how much the one is raiſed, the other is depreſſed. For ſuppoſe that at preſent all Corn, Cattel, and Clothing were very

very cheap, by means of which the Landlord and Farmer are greatly impoveriſhed; yet might the Poor in like manner ſay, What reaſon have we to complain? for we enjoy all things at eaſie rates to the full: and therefore the proſperity of the Rich is envied by the Poor, and the Well-being of the Poor neglected and deſpiſed by the Rich, becauſe that what is in this caſe good for one is injurious to the other; but by the means aforeſaid, I would hope that the *Proſperity* of both may be equally promoted, and the *Advantage* of the one be to the *comfortable Encouragement* and *well-being* of the other, ſo that the *Landlord*, the *Tenant*, and all others may live happily and in love together.

And oh how glad ſhould I be, if I might in an any wiſe be an Inſtrument to promote the future Honour, Safety, and Well being of the Land of my Nativity, and its Inhabitants! yet if my deſires therein ſhould be anſwered, let God have the Glory; and thoſe who are under him in Authority, that ſhall approve of the Means, and proſecute the ſame, receive the *whole Praiſe and Honour*; for to my ſelf Nothing is to be aſcribed, ſince I have done but what is my Duty, as I am a Subject enjoying my Chriſtian Liberty, and Civil Rights and Priviledges.

A Ca-

A Calculation of the vaſt Sums, endeavoured to be ſaved to the Nation (amongſt other things) by the foregoing Propoſals, in the ſpace of Forty *years, according to the beſt information.*

THere is believed to be expended yearly for Brandy, Three hundred thouſand pounds.	300000l.
For Iron, Four hundred thouſand pounds *per annum.*	400000
In Linnen-cloth for our own uſe, which may be made of our own Work and Growth, Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds *per Annum.*	500000
For Bay-Salt, and Salt petre, Fifty thouſand pounds *per Annum.*	050000
All which amounts to One Million, two Hundred and fifty Thouſand Pounds *per Annum.*	1250000
Which in the ſpace of *Forty* years makes the Total Product of Advantage, by prohibiting the ſaid Goods, to amount to the Sum of Fifty Millions of Money.	50000000
Beſides Ten hundred thouſand pounds yearly, that may be well ſaved, by prohibiting the exceſs of *French* Wines, and yet quantity ſufficient for neceſſary uſe, and Perſons of Quality to drink, which in *Forty* years makes no leſs than Forty Millions *Sterling.*	1000000 40000000
Whence it appears, that the Total Sum of all Moneys which might be thus ſaved (to the wonderful, great, and admirable wealth of the whole Kingdom in general) in *forty* years amounts to Ninety Millions.	90000000
A prodigious Sum of Money!	

FINIS.